2006 that "the urban transport being a State subject, legislation for operation and maintenance of metro rail systems falling within the jurisdiction of a municipal areas could be enacted by the State Government concerned".

The comments received from Hyderabad Metro Rail Corporation were also forwarded to Managing Director, DMRC.

Inter-State projects of NEC

1122. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is yet to clear the two inter-State projects of North Eastern Council (NEC) (i) Strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, (ii) Improvement of NLKB road along with construction of bridges over Lohit and Khabohu river in Assam;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a proposal seeking early in-principle clearance of the above projects has been received by Planning Commission;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry would ensure early in-principle clearance of these two projects which are lingering from the Ninth Plan of NEC; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (e) The proposal for strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science is a State subject. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has asked the State Government to consider the option of funding Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science from any of the following sources, namely, (a) Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (b) from State own resources (c) evolving a mechanism where in NEC and States of the region may fund it jointly.

The proposed bridges over Lohit and Khabohu river in Assam have been identified for phase-II of the NEC Roads.

Pedestrian safety on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

1123. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no safety provision for pedestrians were kept in mind while constructing Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the names of the contractors who had been awarded the contract of eight-laning of Delhi-Gurgaon stretch of National Highway No. 8 and for tool collection;

(d) the conditions laid for this contract with regard to construction and toll collection;

(e) who is responsible for constructing overbridge/underbridge for the pedestrian on the said stretch;

(f) whether it is a fact that pedestrian have to fall prey to the accidents due to the dispute between the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the contractor; and

(g) the action being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Delhi-Gurgaon Access Controlled Highway has provisions for adequate number of signages placed at designated locations to guide motorists and pedestrians, W-Beam crash barrier and lighting arrangement, Pedestrian underpasses at four locations and Foot over Bridges at two locations keeping pedestrian safety in mind. In addition, other underpasses/viaducts are also available for pedestrian crossing at flyover locations.

(c) and (d) M/s Jaypee-DSC Venture Ltd. is the Concessionaire who is responsible for development and maintenance of the Delhi-Gurgaon Project Highway on NH-8 on BOT (toll) basis. The Concessionaire is entitled to levy, collect and retain the user fee on and from the date of commercial operation, and until the termination date as specified in the agreement. As per the provision of the Concession agreement, the user fee realized by the concessionaire in excess of 1,30,000 pcu per day in any Toll Plaza shall be shared equally between NHAI and the Concessionaire.

(e) Four pedestrians' underpasses and two Foot over Bridges (FOBs) have been provided by the Concessionaire. The construction of additional five Foot Over Bridges has been entrusted to the Government of Haryana by NHAI as deposit work. The additional Foot Over Bridges and Underpasses are funded by NHAI.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Sea freight charges

†1124. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sea freight charges have seen drastic reduction during the last few months;

(b) if so, the estimates of this reduction between July, 2008 and January, 2009;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.